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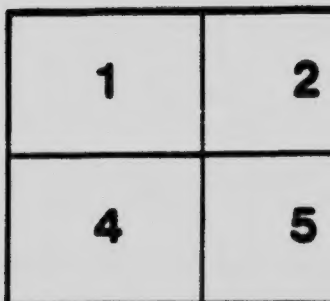
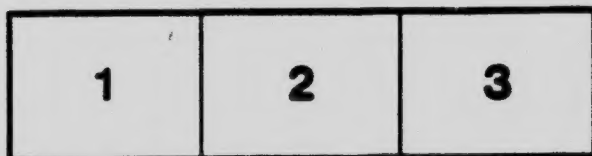
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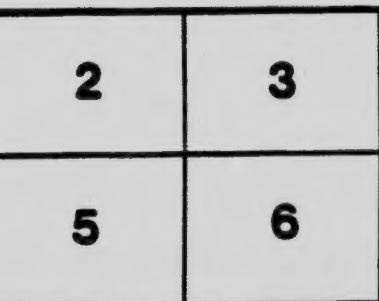
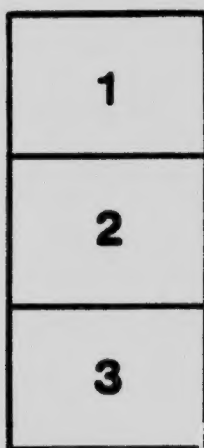
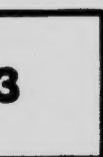
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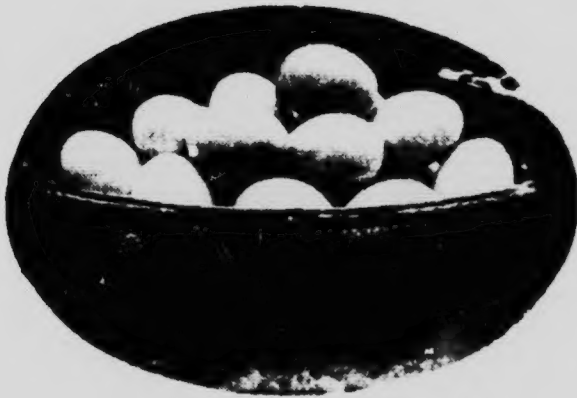


Tamph
1915
no. 124

A Living from Poultry

and how we do it
with our

**White Wyandottes and
S. C. White Leghorns**



W. H. FISHER
AYTON, ONT.



Pamph
1915
no. 124

INTRODUCTION



IN PRESENTING this booklet, I desire to express to the Poultry buying public my appreciation for their liberal patronage and especially to thank the customers from whom I have received so many testimonial letters.

I have written this booklet not only to advertise my stock but to answer the many questions on housing and feeding coming almost daily to my office. The present, more than ever, proves that the well being of a country rests entirely on the production of the soil and having demonstrated in my twelve years experience that poultry farming may be made profitable, as well as being a contribution to the common good, I hold it to be my duty to tell all I know about the subject.

Wishing all my readers, and particularly my customers, a most prosperous year, I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,

W. H. FISHER.

Cotton Front, Open Front or Closed House

In discussing the above houses, we will first take up the Cotton Front house, as described on the opposite page. This house has many advantages over the other styles; it is always light and cheerful and can be built of any length desired and the pens in it can be made of any size. Where a large number of fowls are kept, this house has a great advantage over the colony house system, particularly in winter as the attendant can do all the work under one roof. This saves time and time is money, not considering the disagreeableness in getting from one house to the other in blinding snow storms, which are only too common in our Canadian winters.

Now as to the Open Front or Tolman house; this house has a double span roof slanting north and south, the south side coming within four feet of the floor. This south side is left open the year round with the exception of about one foot high which is boarded up from the floor to keep the litter in. This house can be built square, of any size, but I prefer it a little deeper than wide. It should have a good sized window in the east and in the west end to let the sun in during the winter, and to be taken out in summer for ventilation. I would recommend this house to the farmer or workingman who keeps only one flock of chickens, not because he can get more eggs or keep his fowls healthier than in a cotton front house, but because this house regulates itself in all weather conditions.

When I first started this farm here, with the long cotton front house (seeing the results in the healthy condition of the hens and the large egg yield), nearly all the farmers went in for such a house. The results were, in some instances at least disappointing. The average farmer is a busy man; he often feeds his chickens before daybreak, and being too cold, he does not open the curtains but goes off to his day's work and the curtains remain shut for the day. If it happens to be a warm sunny day, the house becomes over-heated, to the detriment of its occupants. Just the reverse also happens; he opens the curtains on a nice morning, goes away, and in a short time there may be a snow or rainstorm driving in with no one there to shut them. With us, this is different. The attendant is always there to open or shut the curtains, according to the weather.

I only wish I could take the reader through our pens on a nice sunny day in winter. I am sure it would not take me long to convince him that our hens are laying more eggs in winter than any other time of the year.

As to fertility, this house speaks for itself, as nearly all our chicks are hatched from eggs laid in Feb. and March from the hen that has been bred for twelve years now, to lay the bulk of her eggs during the winter months.

Now, as to the Closed House; it has no description other than to discourage it as much as possible. It was the discovery of the cotton front house and the advantages it has over the closed house that induced me to take up poultry as a means of earning a living.

In the winter of 1903 I built a small cotton front house and put in six hens. The remaining chickens (about forty in number), I left in the closed house. The six hens laid nearly as many eggs as the 40; all were fed alike. I started a 220-egg incubator in March with 76 eggs from the six hens, and 144 from the others. Results, 56 strong healthy chicks from the former, and 35 weaklings from the latter. This settled the house question with me for all time to come.



One of our dual purpose cock birds. A type that breeds good layers as well as nice shaped birds.

How We Care for, Breed and Feed Our Stock

Before we can take up the subject of feeding, we will first have to consider the stock to be fed, for no matter what you feed; if your stock is not bred for eggs, they will not lay. You might as well try to make a race horse out of a Clydesdale. Our chicks are nearly all hatched from eggs laid the latter part of January and February. This makes it impossible to get any chicks from a hen that does not lay in winter. We have been doing this for 12 years now, with our W. Wyandottes, and the result is we not only keep getting more eggs in winter, but all the year round. We have made an average of 31¢ profit above cost of feed, on every bird kept, during the month of Dec. Does not this prove that our birds are bred to lay when the price of eggs is high and most hens are inclined to take a rest?

We will now consider the question of feeding. First of all, keep your poultry house clean and provide for plenty of fresh air without drafts; no matter how cold, so long as it is dry. If your hens sit on the roost or bunch up in a corner, trying to get warm, do not close up the house, but put in more litter and make them work harder for their grain. This starts their blood circulating and warms them up. This helps more towards getting fertile eggs and plenty of them, than the best system of feeding ever invented. We feed our layers and breeders alike as follows: the first thing in the morning, we feed a mixture of wheat and good heavy

oats, equal proportions, well buried in the litter, one gallon to about 85 White Wyandottes or 100 Leghorns. About 9 o'clock we throw in all the cut alfalfa or clover they will eat for the day; This we raise ourselves and it is fed dry. At noon they get mangels, all they care to eat in about two or three hours. About an hour and a half before sundown, we feed a mixture, equal parts of wheat and corn, same quantity as in the morning; this is thrown in the litter but not buried under. In addition to the above, they have a hopper of dry mash always before them. The mash is made up as follows: 200 lbs wheat bran, 100lbs corn meal, 100lbs fine oat chop, 100lbs wheat middlings, 75lbs good beef scrap, 35lbs oil cake meal. They also have a hopper of grit, shells, bones and charcoal always before them, as well as clean fresh water. The above is our winter ration. In summer, if hens are confined, we feed same quantities but feed oats in the morning and wheat at night; no corn is fed. We also leave out part of the corn meal in hot weather. No stimulants or so-called advertised 'Tonics' are ever fed. I do not claim this to be the only best way to feed, but after 12 years experimenting, I have found this system a safe one to follow. By feeding a warm mash made up of heavy ground grains and plenty of beef scrap, with a dose of egg stimulant, you can get more eggs for awhile, but sooner or later they will break down in health and make them unfit to breed from. If we want to stay in the business, we must feed for health and vigor, and the eggs will come as a natural function; eggs that will hatch strong chicks that will live and grow to be the equal, if not superior, to the parent stock.

Feeding Baby Chicks and Pullets on Range

If you would open an egg 24 hours before it is due to hatch, you would find the yolk, or at least part of it, just being absorbed by the chick, and on this the chick will live and grow stronger for from three to four days after it is hatched. We do not feed our chicks anything until they are three days old, then we give them water and sprinkle a little chick size grit among them. An hour or two later, we give them their first feed which is composed of stale bread mixed with a little milk curd. The whey should be well drained off this so that the curd is nearly dry. Mix this well with the bread and be careful not to use too much of this curd or it will prove too strong. For the first ten days we feed five times a day, two of bread and curd and three of a good commercial chick food. This we throw in the litter to make them scratch. After this we gradually drop to three meals a day, feeding the chick food morning and noon and a mash at night made up as follows: 20 lbs each of corn meal, cracked wheat, wheat bran, and oat chop with hulls removed, and 10 lbs each of oil cake meal, beef scrap, fine granulated bone, and a little charcoal. This is moistened with hot water or sour milk and fed in a crumbly state, not wet or sloppy. Fine grit and clean water is always before them; coal ashes are also good for little chicks and we nearly always keep a supply before them. For green food, we use mangels or sometimes sprouted oats. Their litter is cut alfalfa of which they

eat considerable. If chicks are started in summer on a good grass range, they will do well without the mash, if they are taught to drink sour milk or buttermilk almost as soon as they are fed.

When the chicks are about eight weeks old, we start taking the pullets out of the brooder house and place them in colony houses, (about 35 in each house) on good alfalfa range. A hopper is placed in each house, which contains a mixture of wheat, cracked corn and oats; in addition to this we feed the chick mash in the evening. If chicks have limited range, it is better to hand feed the grain morning and noon and the mash at night. When the pullets are put in the laying houses, it is advisable to feed a little of the mash for a week or ten days until they get used to the dry mash hopper.

Just a word about colony houses. More pullets are retarded in growth through small, close stuffy colony houses than all other causes combined. Ours are so constructed that the four sides can be opened up so that the chickens practically roost in the open air.

A Profitable Business

To those intending to start in the poultry business, I am pleased to say that there is no need of any failures, while I must admit that there are failures, but so there are in any other business.

Some of the main causes are lack of business ability--neglecting the many little details connected with it--lack of capital to get properly

started. This was my greatest drawback, as I only possessed a few hundred dollars; but I had friends who had enough faith in me to supply the necessary capital. Another cause of failure, and probably the main one, is starting with a lot of scrub stock. New breeds that are boomed up are often dangerous to start with; the safest breeds are those that have steadily come to the front on their own merits without a boom, such as the White Wyandottes and Single Comb White Leghorns. They have at least made me independent and I am sure they will do it for you, if you will give them the proper care and attention.

Combining Utility With Standard Requirements in White Wyandottes

A few years ago, a craze existed among our best breeders and judges for birds over Standard weight and very short backs; and at the shows, the ribbons were awarded to birds with almost no back at all, the hackle resting on the saddle. This was wrong and, if persisted in, would have spoiled the utility qualities of the breed. But now they are coming back to the proper Wyandotte type with medium length of back nicely curved, not over Standard weight, and not too long and loose in feather. If this type is persisted in, the White Wyandotte will keep on gaining in popularity both with the fancier and utility man.

Our Single Comb White Leghorns

When a new breed is announced, the first thing its friends claim for it is that it is a great layer; far superior to the Leghorn. However they come and go, yet we see the busy little egg producer (the S. C. White Leghorn) increasing in numbers on all the large poultry farms as well as in the show room.

The foundation of our strain is a combination purchased from some of the most successful egg farms in America and after years of careful breeding, I am pleased to say that we now have a strain of S. C. White Leghorns that are beauties to look at as well as being regular egg machines, turning out large pure white eggs that command the highest market price.



How to Order

The best way to send money is by Post Office Money Order, Express Money Order, Bank Draft or Registered Letter. Personal Cheques not accepted.

Nothing is shipped C. O. D. If in doubt as to my reliability, write to the Royal Bank, Ayton.

If stock is not satisfactory, return within 24 hours, and your money will be returned, less express charges.

Guarantee

I guarantee all eggs from regular matings to be 75% fertile. If less than that, I will replace at half price.

I guarantee the safe arrival of all baby chicks sent out after May 1st, to all parts of Canada and the States that can be reached within three days. If any are dead, claim must be made within 24 hours after arrival.

During my ten years experience, shipping over 60,000 chicks, I can honestly say that I was not asked to replace over 400 of them. This speaks well for the vitality of the chicks, as well as the much-talked-about careless handling by the Express Co.



**An almost endless view showing some of our Heavy
winter laying White Wyandottes.**



Price of Stock

My price of stock from Nov. 1st to June 15th, ranges as follows: Cocks and Cockerels, \$2.00 to \$5.00 each. Hens and Pullets \$1.50 to \$4.00 each.

From June 15th to Oct. 1st, we have a special sale of hundreds of our breeders and layers, ranging in price from \$1.00 to \$1.50 each.

Write for what you want, describing birds as nearly as possible and the purpose for which desired.



An interior view of Laying House showing some of our heavy laying White Leghorns.



Location of Place

My farm is located two miles from the Village of Ayton, in the southwest corner of the County of Grey, about 85 miles northwest of Toronto. Visitors are welcome every day, except Sunday, as we must have one day of rest.

All shipments are made by Can. Express Co. from Ayton.

When ordering be sure and give name of the nearest Express Office as well as P.O. Address.

Address all orders to:

**W. H. FISHER,
Ayton, Ontario**

Testimonials

In a little booklet like this, it is impossible to devote much space to testimonials, although I could fill this booklet with the hundreds I have on file. I am giving only a few which were among the most recent received.

2564 Queen St., Regina, Sash.,
July 4, 1914.

I received the chicks yesterday all safe; out of the 60 there was only one dead—all the rest were fine and healthy. I am very well pleased with them. I am advising all my friends to get them from you that way. 2,000 miles is quite a distance for day-old chicks. Thanking you for service and hoping to do more business later, I remain, Yours sincerely, Philip F. Filleul.

Owen Sound, Ont., March 11, 1914.

Last spring I bought from you 50 W. Leghorn eggs. I set at the same time eggs from four other strains of the highest priced eggs in America in the hope of getting at least one good strain of layers. You will be pleased to learn that the eggs from your stock showed the highest fertility of the five strains and the fertile eggs gave the highest percentage of chicks. Chicks from yours were all strong. Pullets from yours have shown the highest vitality and now at ten months old are next to the highest in egg yield.

Yours truly,

Geo. A. Robertson.

154 Eastbourne Ave., Hamilton, Ont.,
March 23, 1914.

Last November I got from you three of your White Wyandotte pullets. I must say that I am well pleased with them. They started to lay November 15th and we have never had less than 60 eggs in any one month from the three birds and I think that is a pretty good record.

Yours truly, C. J. Sparling.

Midland, Ont., Nov. 2, 1914.

Just a line to let you know that I had great luck with those W. Wyandotte chicks. Never had one sick a day and raised them all. Have 15 pullets and 16 cockerels. I am well satisfied and proud of my flock. I expect the pullets to start laying by the middle of the month which will be soon enough as they are not yet five months old.

Yours truly,

Sidney English.

134 Robinson St., Peterboro, Ont.,
July 4, 1914.

I thought I would let you know the luck I had with the setting of eggs I got from you. I got 13 of the finest chicks one would want to see. It is the best hatch I ever had. Yours truly,

P. Hartly.

142 Wreay St., London, Ont.,
June 8, 1914.

Just a line to let you know I received the 100 chicks. They certainly are a fine lot and up to the present time they are doing fine—have not lost one so far. Thanking you for the way you filled my order and hoping to do more business with you, I am, Yours truly,

W. Jones.

91 Wilhelm St., Berlin, Ont.,
May 24, 1914.

I am pleased to let you know that I had good luck with the 100 eggs I got from you this spring. I got 83 chicks; that is'n't bad is it? I am very well satisfied, Yours truly,

John Heintzman.



GENERAL VIEW OF MY FARM

The long house is my main laying and breeding house. 366 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, divided into 28 pens each 10 x 12 feet, with a feed room in the center 22 x 24 feet. With the exception of the window, the whole front is cotton on frames which can all be opened up; this admits plenty of fresh air and sunlight. No disease has ever appeared here.

